units, Briquetting plants, household sector.

(v) It is proposed to set up 100 more coal stockyards throughout the country, in addition to the existing ones, under the aegis of State Govts./ their agencies and CIL.

(vi) The Standing Linkage Committee (Stockyards) has been constituted to monitor among other coal linkage to the stockyards, SSF plants and Briquetting units.

Lifting of contracted Crude from Iran

129. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India could not lift the contracted crude from Iran before the outbreak of Gulf War;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the quantity of crude contracted with Iran and the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) With Iran we have contracted for import of 2.5 MMT of crude oil during the year 1990-91. Value of this Crude will be known at the end of the financial year 1990-91 only after full imports have been effected.

Policy to provide LPG facilities in the small and medium towns

130. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present policy of Government for providing LPG facilities in the small and medium towns;

(b) whether it is a fact that many small and medium towns in the country, particularly in Orissa have not been provided with LPG facility; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to open LPG agencies at these places?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) As per the existing policy, LPG distributorships are being introduced in a phased manner, in towns/cities with a population of 20,000 and above (as per 1981 census) subject to viable marketing and overall product availability.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) New distributorships at viable locations would be set up in a phased manner keeping in mind the overall product availability, which is being augmented through enhanced indegenious production and imports

Losses to Air India

131. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to improve the profitability of Air India as it has started incurring losses;

(b) what is the approximate daily/ monthly loss of Air India at present and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any action plan is proposed in order to make up the loss; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) to (d) Air Inlia has been adversely affected by the Gulf crisis alongwith other international carriers. The airline is incurring higher costs on account of fuel and insurance charges. The airline has also lost traffic on account of the curtailment of its operations to the Gulf countries. It is expected that the Gulf crisis would

result in additional costs/loss of revenue of approximately Rs. 200/- crores during the current financial year. The airlines has taken steps to rationalize its route structure and to effect economy in expenditure.

Installation of Bio-gas plants

132. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking steps to promote installation of family size bio-gas plants;

(b) the number of bio-gas plants set up in different States by the end of the Seventh Plan ; and

(c) in what ways rural people are being assisted to set up bio-gas plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 12.38 lakh family size biogas plants have been set up in different States and Unirn Territories during the period 1981-82 to 1989-90 under the National Project for Biogas Development.

(c) With a view to assisting rural people to set up family size biogas plants, the National Project for Biogas Development provides for a number of financial and other incentives including subsidies, turn-key job fee, repair and maintenance charges and technical and training support.

Shortage of Diesel in Madhya Pradesh

133. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh Government has asked for more diesel in view of the unprecedented shortage of diesel in that State due to the Gulf War; and

(b) if so what are the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) There has been no unprecedented shortage of diesel in Madhya Pradesh due to the Gulf War. Requests have been received from Madhya Pradesh Government from time to time for additional release of diesel to the State. A special release of 9000 MT HSD was made for Madhya Pradesh in November, 1990. A special release of 1600 MT HSD has also been made for Madhya Pradesh in February, 1991 over and above the normal entitlement, exclusively for the agriculture sector.

Lifting of Indigenous Penicillin G/V

134. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry allowed advance imports of Penicillin G/V in favour of certain producers of 6-APA/7-ADCA during the last two years with the condition that they are to lift indigenous materials;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of units did not lift the indigenous material and made huge unintended benefit;

(c) what was the average landed cost per unit of Penicillin G/V during the last two years and what was the price of indigenous material; and

(d) what steps have been taken to recover the unintended benefit made by these companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) During the year 1989-90, some units were allowed advance imports with the condition to lift indigenous material in the ratio of 70 (imported): 30 indigenous).